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### **Seeking Applications to Serve on the Task Force Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems**

**June 16, 2022**

Senate Bill 22-021 extends the Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems (oversight committee) and the Task Force Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems (task force). Legislative Council Staff is seeking applications from interested persons to serve on the task force. Senate Bill 22-021 is attached.

#### **Applications are currently being accepted for the following vacancies:**

- **one representative from a county department of human or social services;**
- **one member who represents the criminal defense bar and who has experience representing juveniles in the juvenile justice system;**
- **one member who is a licensed mental health professional practicing within the state and who has experience treating juveniles; and**
- **one member of the public who has an adult family member who has a behavioral health disorder and who is or was involved in the criminal justice system.**

**Applications are due Thursday, June 23, 2022.**

#### **1. Background – Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems**

The oversight committee is comprised of six members of the legislature and meets at least three times annually to:

- a. oversee the task force, including establishing guidelines and expectations for the task force;
- b. submit an annual report to the General Assembly summarizing the oversight committee and task forces' issues of study and recommendations in the previous year; and
- c. recommend legislative changes.

## **2. Task Force Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems**

**a. Task force membership.** The 31-member task force consists of the following members:

- I. one representative from each of the following divisions, departments, units or offices: Division of Criminal Justice; Department of Corrections; Department of Education; Attorney General's Office; Department of Health Care Policy and Financing; Department of Labor and Employment; Office of the Child's Representative; Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel; Division of Youth Services; and Child Welfare Unit within the Department of Human Services;
- II. the Director of the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo, or the director's designee;
- III. the Commissioner of the Behavioral Health Administration, or the commissioner's designee; and
- IV. the following 17 members appointed by the oversight committee's chair and vice-chair:
  - A. two members who represent local law enforcement agencies, one of whom is in active service as a police officer in the state, and the other is in active service as a sheriff in the state;
  - B. two members from county departments of human or social services, one of whom represents a rural Colorado perspective;
  - C. one member who represents district attorneys within the state;
  - D. one member who represents public defenders within the state;
  - E. two members who represent the criminal defense bar within the state, one of whom has experience representing juveniles in the juvenile justice system;
  - F. two members who are licensed mental health professionals practicing within the state, one of whom has experience treating juveniles;
  - G. one member who is from a community mental health center within the state;
  - H. one member who has knowledge of public benefits and public housing within the state;
  - I. one member who is a mental health professional practicing in forensic environments;
  - J. three members of the public as follows:
    - i. One member who is living with a behavioral health disorder and has been involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system in the state;
    - ii. One member who has an adult family member who has a behavioral health disorder and who is or was involved in the criminal justice system in the state; and
    - iii. One member who is the parent of a child who has a behavioral health disorder and who is or was involved in the juvenile justice system in the state; and
  - K. one member who represents a nonprofit organization that works on statewide legislation and organizing Coloradans to promote behavioral, mental, and physical health needs.

**b. Task Force Duties.** The task force must meet at least six times each year to develop policy and legislative recommendations to present to the oversight committee and to study the implementation of committee legislation passed by the General Assembly.

Upon request of an oversight committee member, the task force must provide evidence-based feedback on the potential benefits or consequences of a legislative or other policy proposal not directly affiliated with or generated by the task force.

Each August 1, the task force must submit a report to the oversight committee listing the topics studied by the task force, the task force's legislative policy proposals, a summary of the task force's meetings, the evidence-based feedback provided to the oversight committee on legislative or policy proposals, and a summary of efforts to communicate and collaborate with other task forces. Legislative Council Staff will assist the task force in the performance of these duties.

**c. Task Force Study Topics.** The task force must study the issues annually identified by the oversight committee. The task force may request permission from the oversight committee to study and make recommendations on any issue related to the scope of the task force and oversight committee.

The task force must study best and promising practices to promote positive social and emotional outcomes for individuals with behavioral health disorders who are involved or at risk of involvement or continued involvement in the criminal or juvenile justice systems. Specifically, the task force must study early identification and intervention

systems; the promotion of resilience and health; diverting persons with mental health or substance use disorders away from criminal or juvenile justice involvement; issues related to persons who are already involved with the criminal and juvenile justice systems, release from those systems, and recovery after release.

**d. Compensation.** The task force members listed in section 2.a.IV of this announcement serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses associated with their duties on the task force.

**e. Selection Process, Term of Service, and Removal.** The task force members listed in section 2.a.IV of announcement are selected by the oversight committee chair and vice-chair and the appointments are approved by a majority vote of the oversight committee. These members may serve no more than three consecutive two-year terms and may be removed at any time by the oversight committee chair and vice-chair.

The application process described in this announcement only applies to current vacancies in the positions listed in section 2.a.IV. A task force member who was serving on the task force prior to the passage of Senate Bill 22-021 is exempted from this first round of application requirements. These members will be considered to be beginning their first two-year term.

The task force appointing authorities must ensure that the task force membership includes persons who have experience with or interest in the study areas of the task force; persons who reflect the ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the state; persons who represent all areas of the state; and, to the extent practicable, persons with disabilities.

The task force repeals July 1, 2027.

**f. Available positions.** Applications are currently being accepted for the following vacancies:

- one representative from a county department of human or social services;
- one member who represents the criminal defense bar and who has experience representing juveniles in the juvenile justice system;
- one member who is a licensed mental health professional practicing within the state and who has experience treating juveniles; and
- one member of the public who has an adult family member who has a behavioral health disorder and who is or was involved in the criminal justice system.

**g. Application materials.** Applicants for vacant task force positions must submit a letter of interest to Legislative Council Staff identifying:

I. Which task force membership category the applicant is seeking to fill (see section 2.f for available positions).

The oversight committee chair and vice-chair reserve the right to appoint applicants to categories they are qualified for, but for which they do not apply.

II. A description of the applicant's professional background, experience, and any credentials related to the task force membership category the applicant is seeking to fill;

III. A description of the applicant's interest in the study areas of the task force;

IV. The applicant's availability to attend at least six meetings per year in person at the State Capitol or electronically; and

V. The applicant's address.

Please direct application materials by Thursday, June 23, 2022 to:

Natalie Mullis, Director of Research  
Legislative Council Staff  
(303) 866-4778  
[LCS.Director@state.co.us](mailto:LCS.Director@state.co.us)